



Delaware Population Consortium Meeting

Where: Room 133 Haslet Armory, 122 Martin Luther King Blvd. Dover DE 19901

When: October 1st , 2026 1pm

Virtual Option:

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/220738170468866?p=jMi9JfAhO3uGWnAE2Z>

Meeting ID: 220 738 170 468 866

Passcode: LL6cy6wy

Agenda:

1. Call-To-Order and Introductions
2. Approval of minutes from June 2026 meeting
3. Update on 2026 projection series development
- Dave Racca (UD-IPA/Biden School)
4. State/County Migration Patterns 2020-2025
5. Old Business
6. Open Comment
7. Adjournment

Next Meeting: TBA



Delaware Population Consortium Meeting
Hybrid Format Meeting In-Person and via Teams
June 25th, 2026

The meeting was held on Thursday June 25th, 2026; in Haslet Armory Room 307 and virtually using Teams.

CALL-TO-ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dan Blevins, a quorum was confirmed, with 10 voting members present. The following people were present:

Officers:

Daniel Blevins, Chair, WILMAPCO

Voting Members:

Samantha Bulkilvish, OSPC
Arthur Jenkins, DOL
Wendy L. Hudson, DSHS
Jesse Lindenberg, Kent County Government
Matthew Rogers, New Castle County Government
Dawn Melson-Williams, City of Dover
Renee Bensley, City of Newark
Malcolm Jacob, Dover/Kent MPO
Janelle Cornwell, Delaware League of Local Governments

Others in Attendance:

David Raca, CADSR
Don Berry, CADSR
Joshua Thompas OSPC
Rose Zappacosta, OSPC
Anson Gock, DelDOT
Austin Gray, DelDOT
Jennifer Norwood, Sussex County Government
Stacie Cochran-McNeal, US Census
Abdulrasheed Dawodu, City of Wilmington
Philip Birk, City of Wilmington
Jessica Ramos-Velaquez, City of Newark
Maridelle Dizon, DHSS
Matthew Faiello, DOE

MEETING MINUTES

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM April 2026 - Postponed as minutes were unavailable

NEW BUSINESS

Update on 2026 Projection Series Development

David Racca provided an update on development of the 2026 population projection series. The team's goals are to develop and refine a new projection methodology, build familiarity with the underlying tools and data, and streamline the overall process.

Racca explained that the projection process consists of an "engine" that generates year-to-year projections and consists of research, assumptions, and parameters to support it. He reported that the updated engine, using new birth and death data, produced results within approximately 0.2% of the Consortium's 2024 projections, indicating consistency with the previous methodology. The team is updating the model to use five-year birth and death averages, consistent with the 2024 projections.

The team is organizing supporting research into documented topics, including household formation, municipal and small-area allocation, seasonal population and vacancy rates, migration, employment, housing needs, and special populations such as college students and Dover Air Force Base. The goal is to make assumptions and data sources easier for agencies to understand and collaborate on. Summer 2026 priorities for CADSR include migration, employment, household formation, and reviewing past approaches to municipal and small-area allocations.

Q&A

Discussion on sharing of data and projections directly between CADSR and agencies, specifically DHSS and DOL. DHSS provided information on its annual data cycle, and the parties agreed to coordinate further on timelines and the potential sharing of preliminary data. Arthur Jenkins (DOL) offered assistance with employment projections, including helping extend shorter-term projections to the Consortium's longer-term 2050+ horizon.

Dover and Newark representatives raised concerns that the Consortium's five-year publication increments create difficulties for programs such as Municipal Street Aid that require current population figures. The cities noted that recent growth can make the available figures outdated and potentially affect funding. The team agreed to track these needs and consider them when planning future projection schedules.

DPC Elections

Secretary:

Dan Blevins opened the floor for nominations for Secretary. Rose Zappacosta was nominated and elected Secretary of the Delaware Population Consortium. The motion passed with no opposition or abstentions.

Vice Chair:

The position of Vice Chair remained vacant. Dan Blevins explained the responsibilities of the position and noted that the Vice Chair would assume the Chair position at the appropriate annual meeting. No nominations were received. The group agreed to continue seeking a nominee and place the election on the agenda for the September meeting.

Old Business

Chair Blevins provided an update on the status of proposed DPC Bylaw revisions. The revisions previously discussed remain under consideration, but the group agreed to focus first on filling the vacant officer positions. The proposed Bylaw changes will be brought back to the group at a future meeting for further discussion.

Open Comment

Discussion continued regarding the timing and availability of data needed for the projection series. Maridelle Dizon (DHSS) explained that the closing of the CDC file does not mean the data are immediately available, as additional processing is required. She indicated that DHSS may be able to provide preliminary data to assist with the projection work before the final statistical file is available.

Members discussed establishing a regular schedule for obtaining and updating projection data. Chair Blevins suggested that Dave, Maridelle, and other relevant staff coordinate on the timing of data availability and recurring tasks. Samantha Bulkilvish noted that establishing this schedule could also help inform future Bylaw changes.

Dan Blevins stated that DPC would continue working toward a draft projection series in the fall, with the goal of moving toward formal adoption after additional review.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Blevins moved to adjourn the meeting; Renee Bensley seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM

ATTEST: _____

Daniel Blevins
Chair
Delaware Population Consortium

DRAFT

Delaware Population Consortium Meeting
Hybrid Format Meeting In-Person and via Teams
April 23rd, 2026

The meeting was held on Thursday, April 23, 2026, in person at the Haslet Armory and virtually using Microsoft Teams.

CALL-TO-ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order by Chair Daniel Blevins after a quorum check confirmed sufficient members present. Given several new attendees, the Chair opened with a round of introductions by agency. The following people were present in the meeting:

Officers:

Daniel Blevins, Chair, WILMAPCO
Michael Petit de Mange, Vice-Chair, Dover/Kent MPO
Owen Robatino, Secretary, New Castle County Government

Voting Members:

Samantha Bulkilvish, OSPC
Wendy L. Hudson, DSHS
Matthew Rogers, New Castle County Government
Jamie Fenske, Kent County Government
Dawn Melson-Williams, City of Dover
Renee Bensley, City of Newark
Janelle Cornwell, Delaware League of Local Governments
Arthur Jenkins, DOL

Others in Attendance:

Joseph Trainor, Interim Dean, UD Biden School of Public Policy and Administration
David Racca, University of Delaware CADSR
Don Berry, CADSR
David Edgell, OSPC
Joshua Thompas OSPC
Rose Zappacosta, OSPC
Jennifer Norwood, Sussex County Government
Stacie Cochran-McNeal, US Census
Abdulasheed Dawodu, City of Wilmington
Philip Birk, City of Wilmington
Matthew Faiello, DOE
Colton Phillips, DelDOT
Anson Gock, DelDOT
Jessica R
Landon J

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order 10:01am

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM December 2025

Michael Petit de Mange moved to approve the December 2025 minutes as submitted, with appreciation for Owen Robatino's preparation of them; Renee Bensley seconded. The motion carried with no opposition or abstentions.

NEW BUSINESS

University of Delaware CADSR Leadership Introductions and Future Vision — Joseph Trainor & Dave Racca

Joseph Trainor, interim dean of the UD Biden School of Public Policy and Administration, introduced himself and spoke to the school's commitment to the Consortium's work. He acknowledged that the medical leave and upcoming retirement of the Consortium's longtime demographer had disrupted the products the group relies on, and said the school wants to re-establish that work on a more transparent and institutionally durable footing. He outlined early thinking about a broader “CADSR 2.0” that would build on CADSR's projection work while connecting other UD data efforts, adding scenario/simulation capability, and involving students and faculty, and invited member agencies to help shape it by sharing their product needs. He also raised the possibility of revisiting a designated state demographer position.

David Racca then gave a technical update. He and CADSR staff member Don Barry have been reviewing past methodology and data sources and incorporating updated birth and death data from DHSS, while keeping the projection “engine” in its familiar spreadsheet format for transparency. Remaining work includes refining fertility and survival rates, and estimating migration – the hardest component to pin down – using ACS data and IRS county to county migration flows, cross checked against projected job growth to help balance where people are likely to live relative to where jobs are growing. Mr. Racca aims to begin generating population and housing projections by June, with refinement continuing over the following months, including review of household-conversion methods and of how projections are allocated to smaller areas using parcel-level land use data.

In discussion, Matthew Rogers (New Castle County) offered county data and assistance, and Chair Blevins noted WILMAPCO's short-term contracts are currently funding this stabilization work, with a member survey planned to help CADSR prioritize its product list. Renee Bensley (City of Newark) flagged newly introduced Senate Bill 23 (affordable housing reporting) as a possible area where CADSR could help fill data gaps for smaller municipalities. Michael Petit de Mange thanked the CADSR team and Chair Blevins for stabilizing the process, noting how heavily Dover/Kent MPO's growth modeling depends on DPC's projections, and offered to share MPO data. Abdurashheed Dawodu (City of Wilmington) reiterated a concern that Wilmington's population has appeared static despite new housing development, and asked whether housing-unit growth would be factored in; Mr. Racca and Mr. Trainor agree this is a good point and will look into it as part of the review.

U.S. Census Update — Stacie Cochran-McNeal

Ms. Cochran-McNeal shared several updates from the Census Bureau: a virtual GeoForum conference hosted by the Geography Branch on May 19–20 (including a LUCA overview), the launch of the Census Academy training program, an upcoming population estimates release in June, a recent Random Sampling methodology blog post and a March methodology webinar recording, and the return of the QuickFacts tool on data.census.gov. She reiterated that she remains available as a resource to the group, including help arranging trainings, and will share the relevant links directly.

OLD BUSINESS

Chair Blevins noted the previously discussed bylaw revisions remain on hold; given the number of new members, he plans to repackage and recirculate the draft changes for the current membership before bringing them back for a vote. He also asked members to confirm their agency's main and alternate contacts are current, and said he would put together a simple intake tool for agencies to document how they use DPC products, to help inform CADSR's prioritization.

OPEN COMMENT

Samantha Bulkilvish thanked Chair Blevins, Mr. Petit de Mange, and Mr. Racca for their work coordinating with the University and said she was optimistic about the direction of the effort.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was tentatively set for June 25, 2026, to allow the CADSR team time for further work before reporting back to the group. Samantha Bulkilvish moved to adjourn the meeting; Renee Bensley seconded, and the motion carried.

ATTEST: _____

Daniel Blevins

Chair

Delaware Population Consortium